

## Nevada State Medical Association

**Nevada Medical Bulletin, Feb. 15, 1923**—We still continue to run behind our publication date, but it helps to give a little later legislative news. The Sheppard-Towner Act was accepted by our legislators with only five dissenting votes, and we will now proceed to spend a lot of the people's money on a lay organization that will usurp the duties of the medical profession by passing out Government tracts, and giving needy women and children advice. In the meantime the bill to authorize the establishment of public hospitals, in the various counties that desire one, is languishing in committee and no one seems to know when it will come up. If our legislators can pass the S-T bills so blithely at the behest of a few interested leaders of women's clubs, aided by subsidized labor organizations, they should not hesitate to pass this measure which will provide some real relief to all the sufferers of the State. However, it seems to be rather a popular idea at Carson that when the medical profession takes sides on any bill that we are doing it for purely selfish reasons, and some of the folks down there take great pleasure in alluding to the N. S. M. A. as "The medical trust." The only "Trust" we can see about it is that we trust too many people for fees that we never get, and it is about time that we tighten up a little. Wonder what the lay director of the S-T propaganda, and the nurses employed, would do if the physicians were to refuse to help them out of the difficulties they will get into. And still some of the proponents of that bill took pleasure in intimating that the doctors are incompetent and that they form the "Medical trust."

We need to look after our own interests a little more, and the way to do it is by organization. That is the way our enemies get what they want, so why not try to get every eligible physician to join our State association. We regret to state that there are two or three of our old, and valued, members who have completely overlooked the fact that they have not paid dues for some time. Our annual report must go to the A. M. A. early in March, so if you know yourself to be in arrears try to let us hear from you at once. We admit a little grouch this time, but we will try to cheer up before writing the next number. When shall we meet, June or October?

**Nevada Medical Bulletin, March 1, 1923**—The repeal of the State Prohibition Acts and the adoption of the Volstead Law as the law of Nevada confers upon us the right to prescribe whisky, but you must secure a government permit, if you wish to do so, and your druggist must also have a permit before he can fill your prescriptions. We are also permitted to have six quarts of whisky each year for use in office practice. We are glad that the physicians and residents of Nevada now have the same privileges enjoyed by those of other States, but let us not forget that we are physicians and not bootleggers—and let it not be said that any member of this association has had his permit revoked because of unlawful prescribing. We anticipate that there will be a regular epidemic of snake bites, influenza, "threatened" pneumonia, general debility, and other distressing complaints for which the patients will not only wish to make the diagnosis but will desire to dictate the prescription as well, but don't let them get away with it. You have been making diagnoses and doing the prescribing for some time now, and there is no reason why you should not continue to do so, even though

certain patients may leave your office with a look of pained disgust when you have given them a prescription for a dose of calomel, and some pills, instead of the "pint" they so confidently expected. We have had quite a number of letters and cards about the time for holding the annual meeting, and so far it is about three to one in favor of October. If you have not sent in a card, we would like to hear from you as we want to do what the majority desires. If we can have another meeting like the one last year we will be very well satisfied, as we have so far failed to find any one that will say that he ever attended a better medical meeting anywhere. The scientific program was one that any organization could well be proud of, and when it comes to entertainment we will put our committee up against the world. And if you don't believe us ask California and Utah. See if you have a 1923 membership card in the front window of your card case, and if you haven't you had better send in a fiver and be happy the rest of the year.

**Representation in the House of Delegates**—When a medical society is organized, all of its members assume certain definite obligations with respect to the support of the society in all of its activities. In the scheme of medical organization which now is in operation in the United States, one outstanding purpose which runs prominently throughout the whole plan is that democratic principles shall prevail. Representation in all of the legislative and business bodies of the various societies is based on numbers and is determined, in all instances, by the votes of the members themselves. It is a necessary assumption that all the members of a society will remember to live up to their obligations, one of the most important of which is that all shall participate in organizational affairs and in the selection of those who are to represent the membership in determining policies, and in putting these policies into execution.

Every component county medical society is entitled to at least one delegate in the house of delegates of the State association of which it is a component unit. Every delegate elected by a component county society to represent it in the house of delegates of the constituent State association is charged with a very responsible duty, and should make every possible effort to present himself for service in that house of delegates. Every constituent State medical association in the United States is entitled to at least one delegate in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. By action of that House of Delegates, each of the Sections of the Scientific Assembly of the American Medical Association, the Medical Corps of the United States Army, the Medical Corps of the United States Navy, and the United States Public Health Service are entitled to one delegate each.—American Medical Association Bulletin, February 15, 1923.

**Naturopaths May Prescribe Whisky**—It is reported in news dispatches that the State Appellate Court of California has held that naturopaths are "physicians and surgeons," and in view of this decision the prohibition officers have ruled that they have the right to obtain whisky prescription-books. It is reported that Harry Encell, attorney for the State Medical Examiners, agrees with the opinion of W. J. Gloria, legal adviser of the State Prohibition Department, that legally naturopaths can prescribe whisky. The story of how naturopaths in California became licensed as "physicians and surgeons" makes interesting reading, but is too long to tell here. If these inadequately educated drugless practitioners can be authorized by law to prescribe whisky, what is to prevent them from being authorized to prescribe narcotics? Isn't it a fair question to ask how many, if any, are now licensed to prescribe dangerous narcotics and other drugs under their license as "physician and surgeon"?